

PREPARATION OF PHOSPHORUS-CONTAINING COMPOUNDS
USEFUL IN THE PREPARATION OF BIPHOSPHINE LIGANDS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention relates to processes for making phosphorus compounds $R_2P-X-PR_2$, R_2P-M , R_2P-L and R_3P , and the novel cation $R_2P^+(L)-X-P^+(L)R_2$, where R represents an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group, X represents a bridging group, L represents a leaving group and M represents an alkali metal atom. The invention relates further to a process for making a compound R_2P-L from a compound R-H via a new process for making the compound R-Li followed by its reaction with a compound Hal_2P-L . The compound $R_2P-X-PR_2$ is a ligand suitable for making catalysts for copolymerizing carbon monoxide and a olefinically unsaturated compound.